

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Mission 95...

Students respond to challenge at global missions conference

By Chip Alford

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — While many of their peers made final preparations for New Year's Eve parties, more than 3,000 college students from across America and Canada spent the last week of 1994 learning about missions.

The students attended Mission 95, a global missions conference sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry in cooperation with the Home and Foreign mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission. The event took place Dec. 27-31 in Louisville, Ky.

Conference participants heard from national and international missions leaders, chose from more than 90 missions-related seminars, met in small "family" groups to pray for unreached people groups, and interacted with 100 home and foreign missionaries. They also explored a 50,000-square-foot interactive missions exhibit area that included everything from a simulated airplane ride stopping in different parts of the world to a booth on raceway ministries.

By week's end, hundreds of students had made a public commitment to missions.

National student ministry director Bill Henry said he believes the conference goal of educating students about what God is doing in the world was met, adding he was "overwhelmed" by the week's experience.

"When I looked around the hall during our last night's service and saw all those students walking down the aisle to make their decisions, I leaned over to the person

next to me and said, 'There's our next generation of missionaries.' It was an incredible feeling," he said.

A number of widely known mission leaders challenged conference participants. Among them was Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, who told them they might be the "final generation" before Christ's return.

"The gospel is touching people and nations that have never even heard the message of Jesus Christ," Rankin said, pointing out more than half of the 12,000 missionaries appointed in the FMB's 149-year history began serving in the last 18 years, many in areas previously closed to a Christian witness.

"Jesus told us he would return when the gospel is preached to all nations. You have the privilege of living in a generation that will possibly see that actually come to pass," he said.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told students he would love to see Southern Baptists renew their commitment to achieve the goals of Bold Mission Thrust. That initiative calls for 50,000 churches and 10,000 home and foreign missionaries in the field by the year 2000.

"We are calling out Southern Baptists to be a soul-conscious denomination on witness for the Lord," Lewis said, also pointing to the HMB-sponsored "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." witnessing campaign which gets under way in January. That challenge calls for Southern Baptists to witness to 60 people in 60 days followed by simultaneous revivals.

Another HMB goal, Lewis said, calls for Southern Baptists to start 1,995 churches in 1995.

"It is my hope that we will be serious about the Great Commission mandate and share the gospel with every creature — that's the mandate of our Lord," he said.

Christian author and futurist Tom Sine praised Southern Baptists for their rich missions heritage, but he challenged students to think about their future involvement in ministry.

"We need you to lead, not just fill in and take places," Sine said. "We need new vision and creativity ... whole new approaches to missions."

He urged students to go beyond a two-track approach to missions, in which a small group of people devote themselves to full-time work while the majority of church members pray and offer financial support.

"In the New Testament, everybody was involved," Sine said. "It was 'whole life stewardship,' not tithing."

Conference participants also learned about Global Student Involvement, a joint project of the BSSB national student ministry and the FMB which is sending student teams for short-term mission projects in Central Asia, Indochina, Southeast Asia, North Africa, Eastern Europe, and several other locations around the world. Most of the projects will take place in "World A countries" — locations the FMB has identified as being closed to traditional missionary witness.

Alford writes for FACTS AND TRENDS, BSSB.



LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Scott Porter (right), a student at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and Jennifer Salyer, a student at Moorehead State University in Moorehead, Ky., painted walls at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville, Ky. Approximately 600 of the 3,400 students attending Mission 95 Dec. 27-31 in Louisville worked in a variety of mission projects. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Medical threats loom

Southern Baptist medical missionaries are facing more threats from the devastating diseases they must treat in underdeveloped countries, but they aren't deterred. "Some have estimated that up to one in four surgeons working in (AIDS) high-incidence areas will be infected after 30 years in the field," said Patrick Dixon, a physician and author whose book, **The Truth About AIDS**, was published in September. Rebekah Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary physician in Bangalore, India, knows the dangers. "You have to be sensible and take proper precautions that you should take anywhere. But I'm called (by God) to be here. I've been given skill. I've been given training and education. We're accountable for what we do with our professional skills and, more importantly, the gospel we have to give," she said. Van Williams, a physician, former missionary, and current director of missionary health at the Foreign Mission Board (FMB), reported that there are 229 physicians, dentists, nurses, and other medical workers among the 4,000-plus FMB missionaries.

Fighting for America

The secular influences shaping America do not make God "hamstrung or helpless," said Charles Chaney, vice president for church extension at the Home Mission Board, at a Laughlin, Nev., conference on planting churches in gambling communities. Chaney compared modern America to Corinth in the apostle Paul's day. Drawing from Acts 18, Chaney suggested five steps to help spread the gospel in a secularized society: — Count on "common" Christian men and women. Paul found Aquila and Priscilla when he came to Corinth. — Recover courage. God had to tell Paul not to be afraid of Corinth. — Relearn the evangelistic essentials of clarity and consistency. "The Lord said to Paul, 'Speak out, don't quit.'" — Rediscover the indwelling, empowering Spirit. "We will make no impact without the power of the Spirit of God." — Be confident that people will respond to the gospel. "(Christ) has many people in every city and it's our job to call them out."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Coordinators call for hundreds of Mississippi Baptist volunteers to work in the state's partnership with the three-nation area of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina known collectively as Rio de la Plata.

20 years ago

Wilda Fancher, wife of evangelist James Fancher, closes out her long-running column in **The Baptist Record**, "Beyond the Ironing Board," with thanks to her readers for a "thoroughly delightful experience."

50 years ago

Mississippi is the first state in the Southern Baptist Convention to exceed its goal in a convention-wide campaign to raise enough money to build a debt-free chapel on the campus of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Providence and prayer

Landrum Leavell, 68, president of New Orleans Seminary since 1975, has announced his retirement. He has been an excellent leader of NOBTS and merits the appreciation of all Southern Baptists. Graciously he has consented to continue as needed until a new president is chosen. There are now 1,800 students attending the school of Providence and Prayer and 20% of the student body are mission volunteers.

This editor first met Landrum Leavell in the fall of 1951. Later he was pastor at First Church, Charleston, and I was pastor at Society Hill in Jeff Davis County. We often rode the old Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio train that slashed across the Magnolia State to New Orleans. It was a pleasure to know him and 40 years have not dimmed the memories. I pastored Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, and he came to First, Gulfport, where he was a great encourager to all of us.

Mississippi has always had a

close relationship with the seminary. In 1847, under the Domestic Mission Board of the SBC, the Mississippi Convention assisted in a mission project in New Orleans.

For several years in the early part of the century, P.I. Lipsey, editor of *The Baptist Record*, had advocated the establishment of a theological institution in the Crescent City. The Baptist Bible Institute opened in 1918 for its first session. At that time there were six struggling Baptist churches in the city with a total of 1,231 members.

For these 76 years the seminary has made a tremendous investment in Mississippi. Hundreds of our pastors and staff members have graduated from New Orleans. Names like John Tyler Christian, Baron DeKalb Gray, J.B. Lawrence, J.B. Gambrell, and Plautus Iberus Lipsey made their mark.

They were followed by B.H. Dement, W.W. Hamilton, Duke McCall, and Roland Q. Leavell of the Oxford clan, who was presi-

dent when the school was moved to the new campus.

Our churches and leaders were influenced greatly by E.F. Haight, L. Bracey Campbell, B. Locke Davis, J. Washington Watts, Park H. Anderson Sr., H. Leon Eddleman, W. Plunkett Martin, C. Penrose St. Amant, Frank Stagg, J. Hardee Kennedy, E.N. Patterson, Roy Beaman, Nelle C. Davidson, H. Clayton Waddell, John M. Price, Arthur Gillespie, John K. Durst, John P. Newport, W.W. Swartz, Ray Frank Robbins, J. Kelva Moore, John Olen Strange, Genter L. Stephens, T.J. Delaughter, and the list could go on and on to this present day. These gifted men and women have implanted time and effort in assisting church growth as well as personal spiritual growth across the land.

When the final page is written on the New Orleans Seminary, the name of Landrum P. Leavell will be inscribed as one of our productive leaders. We wish him well in his retirement.

Make Your Will Month...

Gifts to eternity through Foundation

By Mike Caldwell

When the Christian takes the very first step in estate planning — the making of a will — a whole new arena of Christian stewardship is opened. Making a will allows you the opportunity to provide for family, friends, and endowments for Christian causes — all constructed to allow one's possessions to benefit the most people for the greatest good for the longest possible time. Consider the story of a great Christian steward, the late Almeda Sims Wood.

Some believe that the very nectar of life originated in the tranquil land of the deep south known as the Mississippi Delta. Nestled in the northwest area of the Magnolia state is the Crowder community.

That's where "Aunt Meda" lived. And although the quiet serenity of a small town heritage was reflected in her life, she lived an existence on this earth that was far from complacent. It was a life that included a divine plan, a "Great Commission."

Almeda Sims Wood was known by most as an active church member, a faithful member of the community, and simply "Aunt Meda" by her extended family and friends. For 91 years, she lived an example that mirrored her love and zeal for church and God.

"Some people just come to

church. Mrs. Wood was a tither, a Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night Christian," exclaimed Harvey Sewell, pastor of Crowder Church. "She was always involved in church activities, but it was clearly obvious the center of her life was missions."

A passion for mission work and sharing the gospel with others was how most described the ebullient Wood. Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, local missions, district missions... she was always there, always helping to spread the Word.

"When she started WMU at Crowder Church years ago, they would meet at her home. And of course, she would teach missions! Even in the latter years of her life, she demanded that we keep her informed on where we stood with our church goals on mission giving. She was really unique," said Sewell.

As the 20th century dawned on Mississippi's Webster County, Almeda was born the 11th of 15 children in her family. She had a large immediate family, five brothers and nine sisters. However, childhood experiences left an indelible scar and mandate that were carried through her entire adult life.

Almeda lost two brothers to disease and accident at very young ages.

Grief was assuaged by participation at Inverness Church. Despite personal loss, she determined that the best way to spend her life was to ensure that those she loved would be with her in eternity. It was that drive which fueled her fervent leadership in missions.

"She was my aunt, and I really loved her, but then, everyone did. She was always sweet, kind, and willing to help. If you were in need, you always had a friend in Aunt Meda," reminisced Mrs. W.A. Barnes of Jackson. "She had two little houses that she always kept up, specifically to help missionary friends. But I guess the thing I remember most is how she signed letters. At the end, she would always sign her name with a Scripture verse. She could quote it, but she really wanted you to look it up and know it, too. Church was her life."

Viewing marriage as a lifetime commitment, Almeda was the bride of the late Orion Wood. Although the two never had any children of their own, they raised three children orphaned by Almeda's sister, L.V.

With Orion presiding as mayor of Crowder and deacon at Crowder Church, the two continued to teach and share the message of Jesus Christ.

It was this union that led both



THE FRAGMENTS

The real battle

I fought the straw and the straw won. Hey, I give up! Waterloo is my front yard. Custer would have stayed at the fort had there been pine trees at Wounded Knee. It's not "row, row your boat" but "rake, rake, rake the straw."

There are 16 pine trees in our yard. Increasingly, I've adopted the philosophy of the woman who said, "I hate pine trees; they're always doing something."

First you are bombarded with pine cones, then the deluge of straw. You rake, pick up, sweep, and then rake again.

My neighbor quit long ago. No calluses or ulcers for him. He waits for a vehement east wind to blow the straw and leaves over into my yard. I rake while he

swings in the hammock. Sometimes he grows weary of the hammock and waves at me as he moves to the swing.

In my youthful days, prior to the invention of lawn mowers, you took pride in keeping your yard free of weeds and grass. It was just a clean sandy yard. Using a "brush broom," a smart industrious wife would keep the yard barren but beautiful. The men took care of the fields and pastures; the women folks took care of the house, the yard, and the garden.

Once I approached my wife about this delineation of responsibilities. She was greatly impressed by it and handed me the rake on my way out.

— GH

to make a decision that would have eternal ramifications. They determined that at the end of their earthly lives, a fitting gift would be to return all that God had given them through a permanent gift to the Mississippi Baptist Founda-

tion, specifically benefitting mission work.

Their lives were entwined with a singleness of purpose: Share the gospel of Jesus Christ! From starting GA classes to teaching Sunday (See WILL on page 6)

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Home missions season spotlights evangelism, Armstrong offering

ATLANTA (BP) — With the theme "Win All," this year's Season of Home Missions highlights a variety of Southern Baptist evangelism efforts.

The season, from mid-February to mid-March, includes the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the home missions study, and Sunday School emphasis day.

From block parties to truck stop chaplaincy, Southern Baptists are using creativity and common sense to take the gospel to people who might never enter a church, said Joe Westbury, author of the home mission study titled *All Things to All People*.

"Our missionaries have learned that you don't do evangelism the same way in Boston that you do in Mississippi," he said. "As they have adapted to the locations where they are assigned, they have also adapted the gospel presentation to the people there."

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has adopted an unprecedented \$50 million goal for the 1995

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. WMU Executive Director/Treasurer Dellanna O'Brien said the goal is ambitious but reachable. "It's far beyond anything we've ever done before, but it's definitely not beyond the realm of possibility," she said.

This year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions will be March 5-12.

March 12 will be Home Missions Day in Sunday Schools. Members will be challenged to consider their responsibility to witness and minister — including prayer, mission trips, class goal setting, and giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, said Dan Euliss, chairman of the offering's promotion team.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Thursday, January 12, 1995

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WMU dedicates Hunt museum, awards \$65,500 missions grants

By Teresa Dickens

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) board members and guests gathered at the organization's national headquarters in Birmingham Jan. 7 for the dedication of the Alma Hunt Museum of Woman's Missionary Union.

The museum, which highlights WMU's 107-year history, is named in honor of Alma Hunt, WMU executive director from 1948-74. Hunt, along with Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, spoke during dedication ceremonies, held during WMU's January board meeting.

Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, WMU executive director 1974-89; Dellanna O'Brien, current WMU executive director; Carolyn Miller, WMU president; and Dotson Nelson, long time friend of Hunt, also were on the program.

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., described Hunt as a woman who, like the psalmist in Psalm 111:1, has sought the Lord with her whole heart. Consequently, as a missions leader in the SBC for nearly 30 years, she led Southern Baptists to develop three "habits of the heart" — accepting change, giving, and maintaining a harmonious relationship between WMU and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The link between Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Convention is critical," he insisted. "It must be encouraged, protected, and strengthened."

In her remarks to the audience, Hunt expressed appreciation to the WMU executive board for honoring her in such a way.

The concept of telling and preserving the history of WMU is right and good, she said.

"The museum must not be a dead thing, but living," she said.

She challenged WMU leaders not to "live under your circumstances; rather, rise above them." She also called on them to start new work in churches and to "strengthen the stakes" already planted.

In other business, the WMU executive board awarded \$65,500 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

The grants, assigned to both home and foreign fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions.

The Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment created by WMU during its centennial year in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently, along with 10% of each year's interest earnings on the principal, which stands at nearly \$1.17 million. The remaining interest earnings is given each year in grants. Since 1988, WMU has awarded \$415,523 in grants.

Seventeen of the 27 grants awarded this year went to projects in the U.S. The funded projects will provide training and/or materials for WMU leaders in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota-Wisconsin, New England, New York, Nevada, the Dakotas, Northwest, Ohio, Utah-Idaho, and Wyoming.

Dickens is communication specialist for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Annual Baptist Men's Day observed on January 22

The 62nd annual Baptist Men's Day will be held in Southern Baptist churches across Mississippi and the nation on Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995, according to Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The theme is, "Missions involvement through equipping believers."

"Baptist men by nature are action-oriented, and there is a tendency for men to focus on missions activities to the exclusion of ongoing missions education. To effectively involve men in missions, we must maintain a balance, and Baptist Men's Day provides an opportunity to focus on both missions education and missions activities," Harrell said.

Harrell recommended that churches consult the 1994-95 Baptist Men's Planbook for suggestions on how to make Baptist Men's Day a significant event.

Among the suggestions in the planbook are:

- Form a planning committee.
- Consult the pastor and the

church calendar about observing Baptist Men's Day during the morning worship service and for recognition time during the evening worship service on Jan. 22.

— Display Baptist Men's Day posters.

— Include announcement in church publications and use special Baptist Men's day bulletin inserts available at Baptist Book Stores.

— Select a ministry project to be completed in connection with Baptist Men's Day.

— Ask men to share missions testimonies during the worship services.

"Through missions awareness we come to understand the biblical principle of missions; Southern Baptists' historical nature of missions; tremendous missions needs; and trends that shape the efforts to reach Mississippi and the world for the Lord," Harrell pointed out.

For more information on Baptist Men's Day and the planbook, contact the Mississippi Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll free (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi finishes year just above budget target

Mississippi Baptists gave almost exactly what they said they would through the Cooperative Program in 1994, exceeding the budget by 0.1%, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The 1994 Cooperative Program (CP) budget was \$22,452,000.

Gifts from participating churches totaled \$22,474,619, which is \$22,619, or 0.1%, more than that budgeted.

The 1993 budget was the same as that of 1994. However, the gift total that year was \$21,654,659, which was \$797,341 or 3.55% less than that budgeted. The 1994 budget goal was the first reached since 1990. December gifts totaled \$1,994,035.

The CP — 37% of which goes to SBC causes outside the state — in Mississippi funds leadership education, child care, Baptist colleges, and such SBC programs as home and foreign missions and seminary education.

The budget is approved by a committee of the convention board, the full board, and then by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention before going into effect.

A total of 1,930 Mississippi Baptist churches gave through the CP in either or both of the past two years. Of that number, 1,174 gave more in 1994 than they did in 1993.

"It is probable that Mississippi Baptists still lead the way by being the state with the largest per-capita giving in the Southern Baptist Convention," said Causey. "Pray God help us to translate this same attitude into souls saved and Christian discipleship."

Gifts to SBC CP drop 2% in December, above 1993

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for December dropped 2.21% below that month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

Receipts for the year-to-date were almost identical to a year ago: \$34,494,918 compared to \$34,367,885, or a .37% increase (\$127,032).

For December, CP receipts totaled \$12,218,783 compared to December 1993 of \$12,495,334, or a decrease of \$276,550.

Designated receipts for the month were up 4.63%: \$3,309,045 compared to \$3,162,701 while the year-to-date designated receipts total was

9.43% ahead of the same period last year: \$7,067,706 compared to \$6,458,758. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

The December receipts were above the required SBC program allocation budget monthly total of \$11,378,310 or 7.39% (\$840,473). The year-to-date receipts are 1.05% above the Y-T-D budget requirement: \$34,494,918 compared to \$34,134,932.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 program allocation budget as well as restricted funds received from state conventions which identify them as Cooperative Program.



BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Alma Hunt (left), former executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) from 1948-74, was honored Jan. 7 at the dedication of a museum in her name at the WMU national headquarters. Jim Henry (right), president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was guest speaker for the occasion. He recalled first meeting Hunt as a summer staffer at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. (WMU photo by Dan Bryan)

Over 800 bills filed...

Mississippi Legislature opens 1995 session in Jackson; many proposals to tackle hot political, religious issues

By Paul G. Jones II and Elizabeth K. Holmes

The 1995 session of the Mississippi Legislature began at noon on Tuesday, January 3. By Thursday afternoon of that week, over 800 bills had been filed — many of which are of concern to Mississippi Baptists:

Abortion

House Bill (HB) 153 prohibits the location of abortion facilities within 1,500 feet of any church, school, or kindergarten.

Church/State

Senate Bill (SB) 2136 asserts that members of religious societies, congregations, or denominations shall not be personally liable for acts, debts, liabilities, or obligations of the society.

Criminal Justice

HB 94 amends state law to provide that a person and his attorney shall be jointly liable for costs and damages in a frivolous suit.

HB 106 prescribes the sentence of caning for criminal offenses.

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 18 amends the Mississippi Constitution to provide that the legislature may authorize the use of caning and other forms of corporal punishment in appropriate criminal cases.

SB 2108 prescribes the sentence of paddling of a minor for certain offenses including possession of tobacco, certain violations of the uniform controlled substance law, and for certain crimes involving vandalism or destruction of property.

HB 114 establishes the sexually violent predator law and provides that notice be given to the prosecuting attorney before release of a person determined to be a sexually violent predator.

SB 2035 provides that records of sex offender registrations shall be open to law enforcement agencies, and provides for the release of relevant and necessary information to the public.

HB 610 provides that sex offender registration information shall be a matter of public record.

HB 124 makes it unlawful for any person to have a firearm in his immediate possession or control while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, light wine, beer, or controlled substance.

HB 275 requires the registration of firearms with a muzzle velocity of more than 2,000 feet per second.

SB 2062 creates the offense of criminal exposure of another person to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

SB 2039 requires confidentiality of medical and investigative reports concerning cases of rape or other sexual crimes.

SB 2123 amends state law to include gang criminal activities, including gang initiation crimes as a hate crime subject to enhance-

ment of penalties.

SB 2175 provides more effective protection of society by phasing out parole and good time and by requiring an inmate to serve at least 85% of a sentence. It also provides for repeal of the Mississippi Parole Board.

Drugs

HB 81 and 82 provides for the testing of all officers, officials, and employees of the state for unlawful drug use.

HB 84 lowers the blood alcohol level for intoxication from .10 to .08 for adults, and establishes .02 as the level of intoxication for persons under age 21.

HB 438 provides that any person convicted under the implied consent laws as DUI who is under age 15 shall not be eligible to receive an operator's license until the person's 18th birthday.

HB 85 provides for the confiscation of motor vehicle license tags for driving under the influence (DUI) offenses, and for the issuance of a temporary tag.

HB 436 provides that a person convicted for a second offense of DUI shall be required to use a distinctive license plate.

HB 611 prohibits the suspension of DUI sentences.

HB 86 reenacts the statute establishing penalties for violation of implied consent laws.

HB 256 establishes alternative forms of punishment for persons under age 21 convicted of violation of the alcohol implied consent laws.

HB 104 and 264 makes it unlawful to operate a water craft while under the influence of liquor or other substance, and establishes implied consent for blood alcohol level testing.

HB 105 requires blood alcohol tests for boat operators involved in boating accidents that result in a death.

HB 124 makes it unlawful for any person to have a firearm in his immediate possession or control while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, light wine, or controlled substance.

HB 150 prohibits smoking in state office buildings.

HB 151 prohibits smoking in many public indoor areas.

HB 398 and SB 2097 allows home brewing of beer of up to 200 gallons per adult in household per year.

HB 466 provides that up to one gallon of liquor or three gallons of beer or light wine may be transported and possessed for personal use and consumption in a dry county.

HB 400 provides that all alcoholic beverages sold in the state include warnings about the dan-

gers of alcohol.

HB 527 requires retailers of alcoholic beverages, beer, and light wine to display signs on the premises informing the public that drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause birth defects.

HB 439 revises the list of physical injuries caused by DUI drivers that are punishable under state law.

HB 597 makes unlawful any employee or agent of the holder of a

ing education.

HB 590 establishes the right of parents regarding the teaching method and the curriculum requirement in public schools, and requires the State Board of Education and local school boards to adopt policies assuring parents' complete access to information on curriculum requirements.

HCR 29, Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 503 and SCR 526 propose an amendment to the Mississippi Constitution to provide that the right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children shall not be infringed.

SCR 505 memorializes the U.S. Congress to propose and submit for ratification an amendment relating to parental rights.

SB 2120 amends state law to clarify the behavior for which a compulsory-school-age child shall be removed from an alternative school program.

Family

HB 83 amends state law to provide that there shall be no presumption that child custody should be awarded to the mother during divorce proceedings.

HB 92 amends state law to remove the 3-day waiting period for the issuance of marriage licenses for persons over age 18.

SB 2114 amends state law to revise the grounds for determination of custody when child abuse is alleged.

SB 2121 amends state law to revise the grounds for termination of parental rights when a parent has been convicted of sex abuse.

HB 274 amends state law to revise the penalty for touching or handling a child for lustful purposes.

HB 318 establishes a statewide curfew for minors under age 18.

HB 97 creates a presumption that no parent who has a history of perpetrating family violence shall be awarded sole or joint custody of children.

HB 98 amends state law to clarify child support guidelines.

HB 440 and 521 amend state law to include irreconcilable differences among the grounds for which divorce may be decreed to the injured party.

HB 100 amends state law to revise certain irreconcilable differences divorce procedures, and requires counseling of the couple by a licensed counselor or member of the clergy.

HB 261 amends state law to provide that pregnancy of another woman by the husband shall be included in the tenth cause of divorce.



permit to sell beer and light wine to sell or furnish beer or light wine to any person under age 21.

SB 2023 requires the operator of any motor vehicle involved in an accident that results in a death to submit to a blood test to determine blood alcohol content.

SB 2067 provides that an injury is not compensable if the employee was intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance at the time of the injury.

SB 2191 amends state law to prohibit the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages at any public athletic event involving any public elementary or secondary school, any public junior or community college, or any state-supported institution of higher learning.

Education

HB 289 amends state law to provide that nursing staff in the school intervention program may be either a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.

HB 336 amends state law to provide for the teaching of abstinence as a method of birth control in the comprehensive school health education program.

HB 338 prohibits school employees from using hypnosis and other techniques intended to induce a dissociative mental state with students in public schools.

HB 475 provides that educators shall not be prohibited from using or posting historical documents in public schools, and prohibits content-based censorship.

HB 479 requires a moment of quiet reflection and contemplation in the schools at the beginning of each day.

HB 3567 requires school districts to provide notice to parents and guardians of their child's read-

Gambling

HB 197 legalizes pari-mutuel gambling on horse races and dog races.

HB 303 legalizes pari-mutuel gambling on horse races and establishes a Mississippi Horse Racing Commission.

HB 222 provides for the establishment of a state lottery with the revenues going to fund public education and to establish a Mississippi State Lottery Commission.

HB 301 and 302 develop and implement a "Gamblers Rehabilitation Program" in the Department of Mental Health.

HB 399 creates a "Mississippi Critical Needs Trust Fund" from a percentage of revenues from gambling.

HB 480 permits persons with felony convictions, after seven years, to be granted a work permit as a gambling establishment employee.

HB 481 permits persons with felony convictions, after 10 years, to be granted a work permit as a gambling establishment employee.

SB 2083 authorizes issuance of work permits for employees of gambling establishments who have committed a felony.

HB 505 legalizes sports pools for wagering on sporting events to be conducted aboard cruise vessels and on vessels in counties having legal gambling.

HB 536 permits gambling devices, machines, and equipment to be stored in counties and cities that have not approved gambling aboard cruise vessels.

Safety

HB 609 makes it unlawful for a person under age 18 to ride within or upon any portion of a motor vehicle not designated for passengers.

SB 2019 amends state law to provide for sentencing of a first-time traffic violator to a safe-driving school, and provides that a first traffic violation will not be entered on the driving record of any individual.

Other

HB 272 regulates and restricts the volume of radios or other sound amplification system in motor vehicles.

Senators and representatives can be reached during the session by writing to Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215 or by calling (601) 359-3770.

For more information on legislative issues, contact the Christian Action Commission (CAC) at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 758-1651.

Jones is CAC executive director. Holmes is CAC consultant for family and women's issues.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 12, 1995

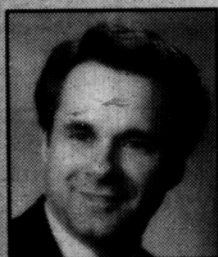
HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 30-31, 1995

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Begins: 1:30 p.m., Monday • Concludes: 9:00 p.m., Tuesday



Joe B. Brown



Dr. Robert E. Naylor



Angel Martinez



Mickey Dalrymple



Kenny Digby

1995 Mississippi Baptist EVANGELISM CONFERENCE



J. Gilman McKee



B.J. Jenkins



Luke Garrett



Jim Ponder



Darrell Robinson



Ralph Douglas West



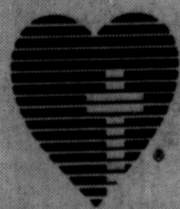
R. O. and Angie Stone



The Stone Brothers



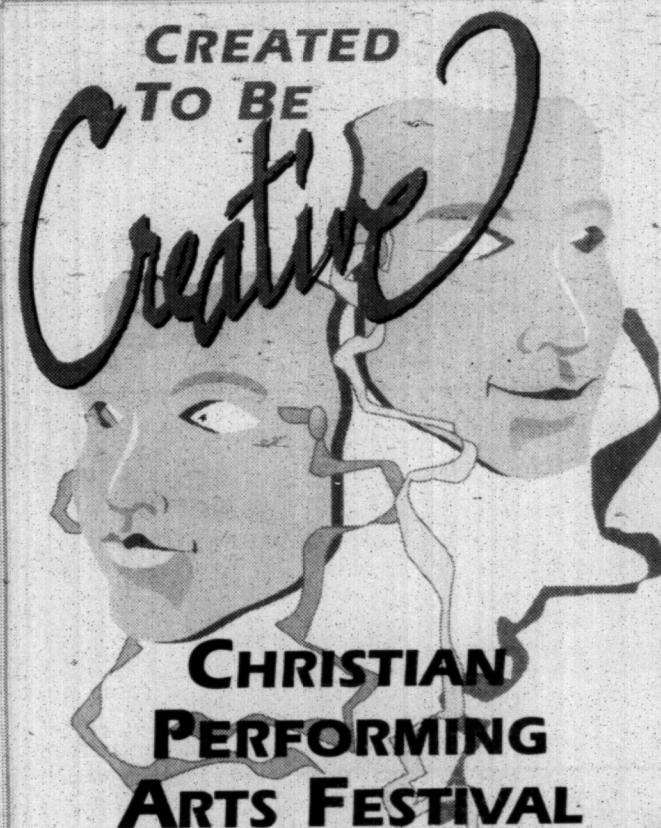
J. Garland McKee



**Here's Hope.
Share Jesus Now.**

The Evangelism Conference is for minister and laity. Come one, come all to receive the highest degree of spiritual inspiration through preaching and music.

Call Garland McKee at 1-800-748-1651 for further information.



**CHRISTIAN
PERFORMING
ARTS FESTIVAL**

FEBRUARY 3-4, 1995

**WOODLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSON, MISS.**

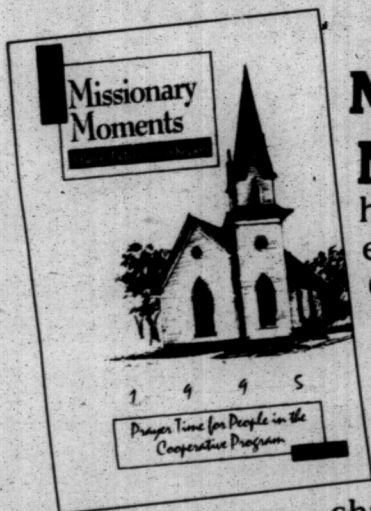
"Created to Be Creative" is the theme, once again, for the Christian Performing Arts Festival. The Festival features training conferences in drama, puppetry, and clowning. We have added the area of Church Recreation to this year's festival. There will be several conferences covering the different aspects of a church recreation program. This year's Festival features "FISHWORKS," a drama troupe from Decatur, Georgia. We have invited an "all star" cast of conference leaders who will provide basic training for the beginner and advanced training for the experienced.

If you would like more information about this year's festival call Wes Pegues with the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651, or write to him at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

pray this day..... January 16-31, 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	for Larry and Cheryl Cox in their special work 16	for Jim and Penni Tilton as they begin their work in the former Soviet Union, that they will have good Russian tutors, that they can find a reliable caretaker for Nathan, 17-months old, while they study the language; for their use of LMCO funds to buy Russian New Testaments and English-teaching materials to use in their work 17	for Jim and Brenda Hearn in Togo, as they work with a group to start a new church; for Brenda as she directs the Bible Way program for Togo; for Jim as he works with sports evangelism 18	for visa status of missionaries in Bangladesh and for missionaries as they deal with the government 19	for churches as they observe Baptist Men's Day on the 22nd 20	for Mississippi Baptist churches to participate in Winter Bible Study 21
for people preparing to lead the Bible Study 22	for busy church members to be able to adjust schedules to find time for this important study 23	for churches enlisting people to attend Starting Innovative Bible Studies Conferences February 20-21 for ideas and training for Bible Study outreach next quarter 24	for the many music-related meetings planned by the Church Music Department of the Convention Board during January 25	for the Evangelism Conference planned by the Evangelism Department of the Convention Board January 30-31, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg 26	for the Black Student Retreat today and tomorrow 27	for bivocational pastors in our state 28
for chaplains who serve in our state 29	for church staff members who need encouragement during the winter time 30	for your pastor, especially, as he leads your church 31	MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARIES - from time to time you will see on the prayer calendar a request to pray for missionaries in various places... you will know that these are some of our Mississippi folks, unless we tell you otherwise... we will include these requests for prayer as they come in without any explanation even though they appear in a seemingly unrelated setting. WINTER BIBLE STUDY... that special time when we enjoy an intense look at a portion of God's Word that it may be our guide for living. Let's pray.			

Prayer Ministry Office
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904
Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY



MISSIONARY MOMENTS

have proven to be a simple, but effective way of promoting the Cooperative Program week in many churches. They contain short prayer guides featuring over 100 Southern Baptist missionaries working through the ministries of the Cooperative Program. Often

churches use them as a way of

enriching the offertory during worship services. You may order a copy for your church by returning the form below.

.....

Yes, please send me a copy of **Missionary Moments**

Church _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return to: Stewardship Department, P. O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

.....

Women's Conference

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI
February 3-4, 1995

Deadline for pre-registration is February 1, 1995

Registration Form

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

Church _____ Association _____

Number registering _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Send registration to:
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
WMU
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

WHO DO YOU SEE?

SEE your youth

(10th-12th graders) singing solos, leading hymns, and/or playing their instruments for a panel of ministers of music; receiving their encouraging comments; and possibly being invited to participate in the State Youth Four Part Festival, February 25.



VOCAL FESTIVAL

* Sing two selections

CONDUCTING FESTIVAL

* Direct three hymns or conduct an anthem or instrumental ensemble (on the advanced level)

INSTRUMENTAL FESTIVAL

* (Woodwind, Brass, Strings, Pitched Percussion)
Play a solo piece of literature

AREA CONDUCTING, INSTRUMENTAL, VOCAL

FESTIVALS Monday, January 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m., University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Tuesday, January 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m., North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford; Tuesday, January 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Baptist Building, Jackson

SEE YOUR YOUTH RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

Partial scholarships to Gulfshore, Ridgecrest or Glorieta Music Conferences \$200.00 college music scholarships (Doubled when used at a Mississippi Baptist college)

SEE YOUR YOUTH singing, leading hymns and playing instruments in their own home churches!

* For preparation information and registration forms, refer to your 1995 Youth Music Ministry Book, or contact your Church Music Department at 968-3800 or toll free at 1-800-748-1651.



• Auditions •

February 6-28, 1995

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. weekdays
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saturdays
For 9th - 12th Graders

- **February 6** North Oxford BC, Oxford
- **February 7** Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
- **February 9** FBC, Starkville
- **February 11** Baptist Building, Jackson
- **February 16** FBC, Biloxi
- **February 17** Central BC, McComb
- **February 18** University BC, Hattiesburg
- **February 20** FBC, Leland
- **February 28** Baptist Building, Jackson

Auditions will include:

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sightreading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn

Audition Fee: \$3.00 per person

Registration Deadline: One week prior to audition

Registration Form

LOCATION AND DATE OF AUDITION _____

NAME _____

AGE _____ GRADE _____ YEARS OF CHORAL EXPERIENCE _____

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED _____ CHAIR IN BAND _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Street City Zip

PHONE NO. _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____

Street City Zip

PHONE NO. _____

MUSIC DIRECTOR _____ Phone No. _____

ASSOCIATION _____

Selection to be sung: _____

(title: hymn, gospel, contemporary solo) _____

(composer/arranger) _____ (range) _____

Please enclose \$3 for each registration and return at least one week prior to audition, to CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

Going Where The People Are

A Conference Providing New Frontiers in Bible Study For the 21st Century

Here is an innovative conference you will not want to miss! Help your church explore new dimensions for

- providing Bible study groups

BEYOND THE FOUR WALLS OF YOUR CHURCH BUILDING.



Date: February 20-21, 1995

Locations: Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven • Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo • Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson • Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale • First Baptist Church, Meridian

TARGET AUDIENCE: Pastors, Staff, SS Directors, Outreach Leaders, Deacons, SS Directors or teachers interested in providing new Bible studies, potential Bible study leaders, Discipleship Training Directors.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED WITH PAYMENT. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 6, 1995. Conference pre-registration fee is \$3.00 per person/maximum for a church is \$15.00 to cover cost of materials. The fee applies to any part of the conference time during the day. No fee will be charged for the Rally time on Monday night. Make check payable to: **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.**

Sponsored jointly by
Bible Study Team and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For further information and registration, you may contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651.

WMU CONFERENCE Ridgecrest

June 23-July 1, 1995

You are invited to participate in a trip to North Carolina for WMU Conference Week at Ridgecrest. Two extra days have been added to enjoy shopping and sightseeing in Gatlinburg, Atlanta and Birmingham, and lunch at the Jarrett House in Dillsboro, NC.

Theme: Risk the Journey

Cost: \$610.00 roundtrip from Jackson

Deposit of \$120 is required by February 15 to confirm

Trip Includes: Travel, five nights accommodations, all meals registration and conference fees.

Registration forms are available in the WMU office.
Call 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

GA/ACTEENS DAY

JANUARY 21, 1995

Theme: "Catch the Spirit"

Place: William Carey College

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7.50 per person
(includes registration, meal, limited insurance)

Highlights: basketball game, missionary, cheerleaders, games

JANUARY 28, 1995

Theme: "Catch the Spirit"

Place: Blue Mountain College

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7.50 per person
(includes registration, meal, limited insurance)

Highlights: basketball game, missionary, cheerleaders, games

REGISTRATION

Church _____
Contact Person _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Church Phone _____
Number Registering _____ Amount Sent _____
Please indicate which GA/Acteen Day you will be attending:

☐ WCC ☐ BMC

Mail to:
GA/Acteens Day
Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

TUTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS MINISTRY WORKSHOP

...will be held on Jan. 14 and Jan. 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Metro Associational Office, 6530 Dogwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39213. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. **ADVANCED RESERVATION REQUIRED**--Call 362-8676. For more information about conference content call Jeanette Canzoneri, conference leader at 372-0609.

HOUSE TOPS

Letters to the editor

Doctrine kills witness

Editor:

I grew up in a hyper-Calvinist Baptist church that later moved to a moderated Calvinist group, exposed to the anti-everything theology that often oozes from this exaggerated "pre-selection" or "elect" doctrine.

This re-awakened disagreement may be the most pernicious of all, in that it causes a spiritual pride that cannot accept dissent. This fascination with, and questionable concept of, "God's elected" has varied interpretations, the extreme being the unconditional pre-destination of every individual, commonly referred to as Calvinism. There is biblical evidence to support this idea, if we ignore context, in that believers accept God as sovereign, and that his knowledge is absolute. Certain great men of the Bible, specifically Paul, had spectacular conversion experi-

ences, and these strong election doctrines are based on his letters. His conversion story has been repeated so often that many who are called by God in a more subdued manner feel inferior, and some resort to embellishment of their call. Because they are not blasted out of a depraved life and dragged by God himself into reluctant service, they feel left out. Was not Jesus' simple invitation — to become "fishers of men," "follow me," or the "come see a man" invitation used by others — a valid call? These biblically-recorded conversions, based on simple requests, outnumber the dramatic. Paul's insistence that God had called him from the very beginning, as an argument against the self-appointed "elect" of his time, taken out of the context of Genesis 1:26, can be interpreted in the insidious manner previously stated. A problem, similar to the parable recorded in Luke 18:9-14, where Jesus' outright condemnation of the Pharisee, could result, and this should deter those who pridefully see themselves as God's elect. They, consciously or unconsciously, relegate those caught up in sin to the group pre-selected for hell, with no chance of redemp-

tion. They believe most church members, other denominations, and that sometimes their own parents and children are those predestined to hell, while they are the main stumbling block! They offer these sinners no hope, feeling God has already assigned them to hell. This flawed interpretation of "man in God's image," (Gen. 1:26) and of John 3:16 destroys hope and probably negates their witness to sinners!

Donald Windham, pastor
West Poplarville Church
Poplarville

Not just Baptists

Editor:

The resurgence of Calvinism among Southern Baptists and the issue of a proper understanding of God's sovereignty as it refers to election and free will is not an SBC exclusive. Many more sects/denominations are being led by the Spirit of the Lord to this very issue.

"Why?" we may ask. The surest sign that God is behind an act or event in the church today is to identify the motivation of those

who carried it out. To be frank, if we cease to be a "denomination," because we adhere to and defend both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man in respect to salvation, then so be it! Besides, we are not asked to share the gospel with the world based on whether or not God is sovereign. Nor are we asked to share the good news with the world based on our thoughts about free will. We are commanded to proclaim the gospel — period. We are called to obey this command and serve.

The way I like to look at the unsolvable mystery of predestination and free will is this: the analogy of the train track, with one rail being predestination, and the other free will. At this point in time and from our current perspective, these two biblical doctrines may seem separate, unblending, and even mutually exclusive. As we ride along the track toward heaven we can look ahead to where they appear to meet and become one, and I believe when we can see from God's perspective, they will. Let us not reject God's nature or actions based on our lack of faith or understanding. But let us say as

the Word says, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, his ways past finding out" (Rom. 11:37).

Stephen J. Zachary
Columbus

Calvinism is biblical

Editor:

"If you teach and preach that stuff, it'll kill evangelism and missions in your church," the older, wiser, and more established pastor said to me. I had just become the pastor of a small rural church down the road from his small rural church. He had just learned that I was a Calvinist.

I was very interested in an article in the Dec. 8 issue of *The Baptist Record*. The headline read, "Resurgent Calvinism renews debate over who has a chance at heaven." Though the tone of the article was certainly slanted, it was not overtly hostile to those of us who hold to the Doctrines of Grace (Calvinism) espoused by the founders of the SBC.

I am well aware of the fact that I hold to a "minority" position among 1990s Southern Baptists. But I assure you that my Calvinism is a thoroughly historic Southern Baptist position that also happens to be thoroughly biblical.

But the fires of revisionist history burn ever brighter these days. While many, including some history professors, may not personally agree with the Doctrines of Grace, it is irresponsible scholarship to deny that "William Carey and other early Baptist leaders" were anything but evangelistic, missionary-minded, five-point Calvinists. You may disagree with the doctrine, but history must not be revised to allow for current opinion and prejudices.

Calvinism kills evangelism and missions? I don't think so.

M. Tony Ludlow
Southern Baptist missionary
Japan

Angels timely subject

Editor:

Thank you for the several articles concerning angels in the Dec. 22 edition of *The Baptist Record*. Almost three fourths of the Christmas greeting cards I received this year featured these beautiful beings. Replica angels can be found in almost every room of my home as I have collected and displayed them for years.

However, for those of us who have placed our faith, trust, and hope in the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ of whom the Scripture speaks, we must listen as he himself tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way...."

That means he is the only way.

Thank you for addressing a timely subject.

Linda McCullar
Kosciusko

AUTHORS WANTED

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly, juvenile and religious works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free 32-page illustrated booklet H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W. 34 St., New York, NY 10001.

opposes tampering with benefits for the elderly, doesn't sound like a Republican. There is no support for Social Security and Medicare. Lynne Martin, the GOP's Social Security expert, "aren't they into this [Social Security] yet?" she asks. "I don't know what an election is, else they think it's welfare."

Clinton's campaign promises to examine ways to cut the deficit in exchange for the senator's support on Mr. Clinton's budget last year. The panel's co-chairman is Republican Sen. John Danforth of Missouri, is expected to make legislative proposals to the president.

the Blackstone Group, wants to get the Federal Reserve Board involved with running public service announcements. The group is already on the attack. The panel held its first meeting. The panel is screaming "Urgent: Stand up for Social Security!" arrived in the mailboxes of the 500,000 members of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. On a headline reading "Social Security in Jeopardy," the editorial in its magazine said the commission intended to cut nearly half of the program's members' retirement benefits. Not a good omen.

The pre-Social Security group has clout.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How do I tell a fellow church member that I don't like hearing her run down the preacher? I'm tired of it and want it to stop.

When was the last time this person said something good about the preacher — or anyone else? Does this person talk negatively about everyone, or just the pastor? The answers to these important questions can reveal this person's frame of reference about life. The best way to break a bad habit like this is through affirmation. When something good is said, remark, "That would really make his day. Why don't you tell him how you feel or send him a note?" If the problem persists, speak up with something like this: "I don't understand what you have against the pastor, but if you talk with him about it you might have more understanding. I don't feel that way about him, so I'm asking you not to put him down in my presence." Also: "Have you prayed about this, and could I pray with you?" The other person will know where you stand. If you are subjected to more complaints, restate until this person gets the message. Don't get upset if this person doesn't like it —

maybe they don't like the idea of learning to "speak the truth in love."

My elderly mother sent all her money to a TV preacher who is now bankrupt and in jail. How can I help this godly woman who has completely lost her faith?

Love her and get the people around her to love her. Betrayal is a devastating experience that cripples people and prevents them from again risking trust. She has had a double slam in that she has been betrayed and has also lost both her spiritual and financial security. Allow her to grieve these losses. Give her time to get over this (how long depends on the individual). Rally other people around her. Encourage her friends to stay close even if she rejects them. Invite her to go to church with you. Seeing other people going on with their lives can help her heal. Your mother is scared and angry. By giving her your time, being patient, and staying involved, you show her that she can go on because she is still very much loved. You can pass back to her the faith she gave you and help her see the hope of tomorrow.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

A Lot Has Happened In Just Two Years

Change happens fast. If you haven't looked at the life, medical or disability coverages offered by the Annuity Board in some time, take a second look. Improved benefits in our programs give you the coverage you and your family deserve, and the value you demand.

Plus:

- No rate increases for the past two and a half years in the Personal Security Program medical coverage.
- Flexible, "unbundled" coverage to fit any budget.
- A new prescription drug program for comprehensive medical plans.
- HMO and PPO offerings in many areas.

If you are not in the Personal Security Program or the Employer Security Program, or if you aren't certain about your present coverage, call us today, toll-free at 1-800-262-0511. Ask for the latest information on life, medical, or disability plans.



ANNUITY BOARD OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

2401 Cedar Springs Rd. • P.O. Box 2190 • Dallas, Texas 75221-2190

1-800-262-0511

Serving Those Who Serve the Lord

Names in the News

Meridian native Don Webster, member of Fellowship Church, Enterprise, has been called into full-time evangelism and has created Point of Light Ministries. He can be contacted at 12708 Shuck Road, Enterprise, MS 39330. Telephone: (601) 655-8472.



Ray Lloyd and his wife Gretta will leave this month to teach at the Hong Kong Seminary. He will be teaching Old Testament for the spring semester. He was formerly pastor of First Church, Starkville.

Peg Rankin, nationally-known author and speaker, will lead a seminar for women, "Through Many Roles Hearing God's

Voice," at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, on Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 18. For more information, call Ridgecrest Church at (601) 853-1090.

Harry L. Cole, 1590 Dillon Ridge Road, Vicksburg, is available for interim and supply preaching. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and Tennessee and is a graduate of Covington Theological Seminary, Chattanooga. Cole may be contacted at (601) 630-9475 or Warren Association, (601) 638-2142.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — **Samford University President Thomas E. Corts** has been elected president-elect of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting organization that represents more than 12,000 public and private schools at all levels of education.

WASHINGTON (BP) — **Former White House official Robert Maddox** was named editor of **Capital Baptist** by the District of Columbia Convention's executive committee Dec. 8. Maddox, 57, assumes the part-time editorial position Jan. 1. He also will continue as pastor of Briggs Memorial Church, Bethesda, Md., his full-time pastorate for the past three years.

Pine Belt Quilters exhibit runs thru Feb. 3 at Carey

"Warmth for the Body Inspired from the Soul," an exhibit of prize-winning quilts and quilted items, will be on display in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College from Jan. 10 through Feb. 3.

Organized in 1984 by Doris Aultman, Martha Ginn, Susan Kelly, and Gail Rowland, the Pine Belt Quilters has grown to 85 members.

Many of the quilters have received awards and honors in local, regional, and national competitions. Betty Tudor's "Baltimore Album Rose" was chosen as

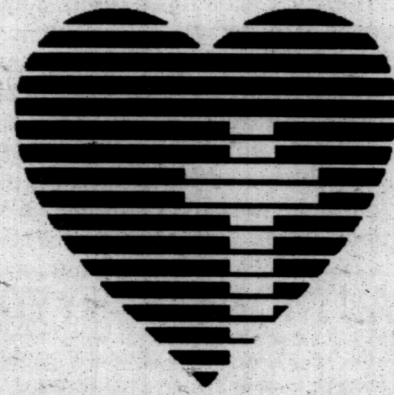
one of 400 quilts to hang in the 10th annual show of the American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Ky.

The quilters recently completed and donated 96 children's quilts to the Ronald McDonald House in Jackson. The House tries to give each child his or her own quilt as a reminder of the concern and comfort offered by a caring community.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, or by appointment. The Lucile Parker Gallery is located in Thomas Hall, William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

For 15 years Kelley and his wife Lavelle worked as the house parents at Alpha House in Tupelo, a home for troubled young men. He baptized 27 of these youths while there. He baptized more than a thousand people in his ministry. He was a bricklayer and assisted in building 10 churches.

Survivors include his wife, Lavelle Vinson Kelley of Tupelo; two daughters, Elaine Herrington of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Annie Pearl Sedler of Temple, Texas; son, Malcomb A. Kelley of Ormond Beach, Fla.; and stepson, Charles Vinson of Jackson.



SBCNet, CompuServe kits now free to Baptists

NASHVILLE (BP) — Beginning Jan. 1, 1995, Southern Baptist computer users can try SBCNet and CompuServe free of charge.

SBCNet, the denomination's data communications network, may be accessed by using a computer, modem, and a membership kit distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Kits, which provide access to services of both computer networks, previously were \$20 each. Kits contain software, account information, credit for a free month of CompuServe's basic services, and a \$25 credit which may be used for up to three months of SBCNet services. They are available in DOS, Macintosh, and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling 1-800-325-7749. David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator, said availability of free kits will continue for the foreseeable future.

After the first month of totally free services, users would pay the CompuServe standard plan charge of \$8.95 plus any additional charges for extended services on CompuServe. After the \$25 credit has been used, the cost of SBCNet is a flat rate of \$7.95 monthly, plus CompuServe's standard plan charge of \$8.95 monthly.

SBCNet services include supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday school lessons in three curriculum series; Baptist Press, the official Southern Baptist news service; and nine other services aimed at both church staff and members. An additional 60 basic services are offered through CompuServe.

People who already are members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt without ordering a kit. (See related articles on page 8).

Just for the Record

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, will celebrate its 90th anniversary and homecoming, Jan. 21-22. Leading the worship service will be Dale Funderburg, pastor, Jimmy Porter, Jim Futral, and Bill Duncan, former pastors. Gary L. Dover, minister of music and youth, and former staff members, will minister through music. The church was organized on Jan. 18, 1905 as North Gulfport Church. In 1920 the church changed the name to Grace Memorial Church in honor of W.C. Grace, former pastor. In 1955, under the leadership of P.S. Dodge, pastor for 39 years, the church moved to its present location of 23rd Avenue and 23rd Street.

emeritus of **The Baptist Record**, in a book-signing of his **The Thought Occurred to Me**, a book about former SBC president and Yazoo City native Owen Cooper, on Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mississippi College will offer **Bible 110: Introduction to the Old Testament**, taught by John Doler, Thursday nights at the Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville. Registration will be Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 925-3265. MC will also present a musical variety show at the Saenger Theater in Biloxi on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. **The Naturals** will perform a tribute to the heroes of World War II as part of "Mississippi College comes to the Gulf Coast." For more information, call (601) 925-3208.

First Baptist Church of Balboa, Republic of Panama, is seeking both an interim and a full-time pastor. Contact Leonard C. Blevins, chairman, Pastor Search Committee, at PSC 3 Box 1837, APO AA 34003 or call (507) 26-0194.

The 2nd annual Northeast Mississippi Gospel Jamboree will be held Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., MSU Lee Hall, Starkville. For more information call (601) 323-8188.

Pinelake Church, Brandon, will host Don McGregor, editor

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WILL

From page 2

School, life was a fulfilling experience.

"Aunt Meda was a great spiritual influence on my life. She was always there for me," remarked Maribeth Haire of Batesville, whose grandmother was Almeda's sister.

When Orion died some 25 years ago, Almeda was left to carry the torch. She never remarried, but she did continue to share her faith. Despite the rigors of advancing age and debilitating cancer, she was even able to continue driving her automobile to church until the final stages of her life.

It was a noble work, and truly

one that will take eternity to see just how profitable it really was. When Aunt Meda died recently, she fulfilled the promise she and Orion had made years earlier.

Aunt Meda left the bulk of her estate to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Through this gift, her dream of missions will continue to live and provide the means by which others can know and receive the salvation of Jesus Christ!

January is Make A Will Month. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation can help you confidentially explore the different options available through wills and estate planning services. For more information, call Hal Fisher at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free at (800) 748-1651.

Caldwell, member of First Church, Jackson, writes for the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

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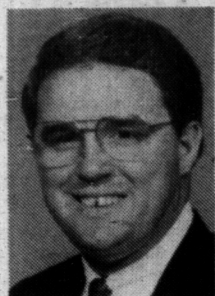
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Uniform Protecting the helpless



By Greg Potts
Genesis 1, Psalm 139,
Matthew 18, 19

This Sunday is "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention. Christians encounter many issues that fall under the umbrella of the "Sanctity of Human Life." These issues range from abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide to abuse and others. What does the Word of God say about this very important subject? This lesson provides some insight.

Man is responsible for procreation (Gen. 1:28a). God said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." One of the greatest joys any husband and wife can have is that of experiencing the birth of a child. There are two sides to this issue. There has been much discussion of late about population control in our world. Still others, primarily in Christian circles, believe Christian families should place more emphasis on the family by having more children. The Bible says children are a blessing.

Every child is a creation of God (Psalm 139:13-15). The context of this verse is the psalmist dealing with the omnipresence and omniscience of God. These terms mean that God is everywhere and is aware of everything. As he struggles with this, the Psalmist declares, "For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb." The word that is translated "form" means "to create." Thus, God created the psalmist and knew the psalmist even in the womb of his mother.

The key question to the abortion issue is: When does life begin? The pro-choice movement teaches that it begins at birth and, therefore, taking the life of a child prior to birth is not murder. However, this verse clearly teaches that life begins at conception which makes abortion on demand wrong!

Jesus taught that children are special (Matt. 18:10, 14). In these verses Jesus taught that we should be careful not to allow anything to cause us to stumble (trip up) in the Christian life. Jesus then adds if anyone causes a child to stumble by setting an improper example of the Christian life, they would be punished. Jesus then said no one should despise the little ones because their angels in heaven behold their faces.

The Jews believed that every Jewish person had a guardian angel. Thus, anyone who mistreated these "little ones" would be reported directly to God by the greatest angels, and the report would be read in the day of judgment (cf. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*). This means that every parent should make certain his child has the opportunity to respond to the gospel by taking him to Sunday School and worship. It also means every church has the responsibility to provide good training for every child.

We are to come to Jesus with the faith of a child (Matt. 19:14-15). In this text, Jesus' disciples thought that the children were bothering the Lord. Jesus rebuked the disciples and informed them that everyone should come to him with the faith of a little child. This verse clearly teaches that children are special to the Lord. If they are special to Jesus, they should be special to the church.

What is your church doing to minister to children? What is it doing to minister to young families with children? If we are to reach young couples we must take ministry to children seriously. This is not money wasted, but money invested in the lives of young people.

Things to consider:

1. Ask your church to budget monies for a crisis pregnancy center; 2. Consider getting personally involved helping in a crisis pregnancy center; 3. Vote for a candidate who is pro-life; 4. Although the subject of the sanctity of human life normally reminds us of abortion and other related issues, these are not the only issues that come under this heading. We also are given the responsibility of helping the helpless. Christian people should be sensitive to those around us who are in need. The Bible says that if we know of something that we need to do for the Lord and fail to do it, it is sin. Therefore, we need to minister to those who are in need.

Man is made in the image of God. God has given man the responsibility of multiplying and ruling on the earth. How well are we doing? Let us strive to protect the sanctity of human life.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Sanctity of all human life



By Sylvia Fleming
Genesis 1, Exodus 1, Matthew 18

One does not have to know very much about the Bible in order to acknowledge that God is strictly pro-life. Never once does he give a mother permission to kill her child — his children — his creations. He never discusses with the mother conveniences, life-threatening situations, lack of money, nor who the father is in order to give her permission to kill the child. Even conservative society of today has problems denying a mother's right to abortion when either her own life is at stake, or when there has been a rape committed.

For the person who is truly seeking to do God's will, maybe Mary the mother of Jesus should be considered. Her pregnancy was most certainly an inconvenience. She was an extremely young girl betrothed to a young Jewish man whose society said if she were unfaithful to her man that she could be put to death. One might contend that she was having the Son of the living God. How true! However, was society aware of that fact?

This pregnancy was certainly an inconvenience. There was not an overabundance of money; her life was at stake. Finally, this baby belonged to someone other than Joseph, her husband-to-be. Not only are children to be tolerated even though they are inconveniences, even though there is not sufficient money, though the mother's life is at stake, but they are also to be looked forward to in anticipation. God gave man a two-fold blessing. "And God blessed them and God said, '... Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it....'" First, man was given the ability to reproduce. Next, he was given the ability and the power to control the earth. As one notes the sentence structure, he will see imperatives: "... Be fruitful... multiply...." God never applied any societal conditions (Gen. 1:28a).

From the very beginning God clarified his feelings and love for all mankind. Way down in Egyptland, the native midwives could easily have become "almost-abortionists" — they were ordered to kill the male newborn children. A child is a child to God, whether in the womb or out. Those pagan women were more in tune to God than so-called "Christian America." Those Egyptian women refused to commit murder because they feared God (Ex. 1:15-2:10).

Travelling on through the Bible, one sees in Deuteronomy 18:10 that none were/are to offer their children as sacrifices to pagan gods, even if that god is self, convenience, or work.

Going on to Psalms, God's Word takes one to the unborn child and tells how precious that baby is. It is pointed out how fearfully and wonderfully those of humankind are made (139:13-15). God even takes the reader back prior to the womb.

God told Jeremiah (1:15): "Before I formed thee in the womb I knew thee; and before thou came'st forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee...."

Because one infant is so precious in God's sight, he uses tender language and manifests loving and compassionate ways to that one. This thought is clearly demonstrated in Matthew 18. Jesus stated he would gladly leave the 99 to go in search of the one lost sheep. It is not God's will that one should perish. God so loved these little ones that he said in Matthew 19, "... for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Never once has God ever waived in his intentions toward children.

He knew them before they were in the womb, and he knows them in the womb. Mankind does not have the wisdom to second-guess God, and certainly man does not have the wisdom to play God and kill babies.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Who speaks for the children?



By Michael Johnson
Genesis 1, Deuteronomy 18,
Matthew 19

A central truth of the Bible is that God has always stood on the side of the defenseless, the weak, the disadvantaged, and the helpless. Furthermore, we learn that those who seek to be in proper relationship with God must also be concerned about their relationship with others. If we are then to be obedient to God it seems that we are unable to escape the mandate to deal justly and be merciful to our neighbors; especially those who might be unable to care for themselves.

Unfortunately we do not have to look far in Mississippi to discover those who might be "at risk" in today's society. Consider for a moment the following statistics that describe life in Mississippi in 1991-92:

For every seven students who graduated from high school, three students had dropped out, many as early as ninth grade.

One out of every five teenagers became mothers.

One out of every five households received food stamps and lived below the poverty level.

Every day 16 people were assaulted and three women reported they were raped.

Almost two out of 10 individuals age 17 or under were in households that depended on welfare benefits.

What role can and should the Christian have regarding these social ills?

God creates life. Genesis 1 testifies to the fact that God is the Creator of all things. The creation of human life was unique; as verse 27 teaches, we were created in God's image. What might this mean? I suggest that since God defies description (Ezek. 1) our image in some part is related to the spiritual attributes of God; having the ability to demonstrate what God is like. Being concerned about issues related to justice, ethics, and morality are in a sense demonstrating God-like qualities.

Created in God's image also means that we have the possibility of becoming like him — in a reflected way. Just as we are to see the glory of God in the creation, we have also been created to reflect God's glory in ways that the rest of creation cannot. This therefore gives us a basis for human dignity and for the high value we should place on human life.

God protects children. Matthew 18 contains the beautiful parable of the lost sheep. Jesus is clearly teaching the love and concern that God has for all people. All humankind bears God's image, and even though that image was affected by the fall, we are never in a position to judge another in such a way that he or she can be treated inhumanely or disregarded. There is no doubt that if only one individual had been in need of redemption, God would still have sent Jesus into the world.

In the next chapter, Matthew shows us the value that Jesus placed on children as contrasted from the disciples' treatment of them. In our society, however, children become some of its worst victims, treated with little or no value. Remember, they also have been created in God's image.

Who speaks for them?

God protects the helpless. The children of Abraham were unable to help themselves as they lived under the oppression of Pharaoh's slavery, so God sent Moses. Even though the Israelites had rejected God's mission for them and were mired in self-centered living, God sent Jesus.

Our communities are full of helpless people — broken families, neglected children, battered spouses, crime victims, the handicapped, the homeless, the poor, and the frail elderly. Could it be this is why God has sent you?

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



Here's Hope.
Share Jesus Now.

capsules

FORMER MISSIONARY KILLED IN PLANE CRASH: JONESBORO, Ga. (FMB) — Nathaniel E. "Ned" Mann, a missionary to Brazil for 15 years, was killed with his father-in-law, William W. Dixon Sr. of Jonesboro, Ga., Oct. 23 as the small airplane Mann was flying crashed shortly after takeoff from Dothan, Ala. A fire apparently ignited in the left engine before the plane went down. Mann is survived by his wife Gail and three daughters: Melissa, 13, Marlene, 10, and Melody, 8, all of Graceville. While a missionary, Mann directed evangelism and missions for the central and western region of Brazil, and also was a crusade evangelist and mission pilot. He taught at Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, at the time of his death.

SINGAPORE BAPTISTS SEND FIRST MISSIONARIES: SINGAPORE (FMB) — The Singapore Baptist Convention, organized in 1975, sent out its first foreign missionaries in October. While other missionaries have been sent out by individual Singapore Baptist churches, "this is a landmark effort by the churches working together," said Clyde Meador, director of Foreign Mission Board work in southeast Asia. The convention consists of 29 churches, which recorded 403 baptisms in 1993.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS AID IN HONDURAS DROUGHT: TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (FMB) — The Foreign Mission Board has provided aid to Hondurans and missionaries hurt by a severe drought in Honduras. The board recently released \$13,000 in Southern Baptist hunger relief funds to buy grain for food and planting for about 170 Honduran families who lost crops in the drought. The water shortage has caused a severe energy crisis that has hindered mission work there. Electricity — powered by a hydroelectric plant — stays off almost 14 hours a day in some places. FMB missionaries in those areas recently received battery inverter systems — at a total cost of \$50,000 — to provide power for their homes and work. Meanwhile, the drought and resulting energy crisis are causing Hondurans to lose money, business, and crops. The situation also is increasing accidents and crime and is disrupting church functions.

ASSEMBLIES PASTOR RELEASED IN EGYPT, FOUR OTHERS HELD: CAIRO, Egypt (BP) — An Assemblies of God pastor charged with trying to convert three Egyptian women to the Christian faith was released Dec. 19 after spending 37 days in prison. Still, four other Coptic Christians arrested in October and November are being held in Egypt, according to the International Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity, a London-based institute which monitors Christianity in Islamic countries. Assemblies of God pastor William Gayyid was arrested Nov. 11 shortly after three Muslim women entered his church in Cairo after a service and asked him to pray for them. He was released when the women told police he had not tried to convert them, but he was re-arrested half an hour later. Church leaders speculated he might have offended someone with political connections.

RUSCHLIKON SEMINARY CAMPUS SOLD TO SWISS INSURANCE FIRM: RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — The International Baptist Theological Seminary sold its Ruschlikon, Switzerland, campus Dec. 19 to a Swiss insurance firm for about \$20 million. Seminary trustees plan to use proceeds from the sale to pay for a new 14-acre site in Prague, Czech Republic, renovate the 22 buildings there, and relocate. They also plan to establish an endowment to provide scholarships for future students. The seminary plans to complete its relocation to Prague this coming summer. The new owners will take over the site Sept. 1 and use it for a training facility and guest housing. The 45-year-old Ruschlikon seminary has graduated 1,200 students in its full-time program and hundreds more in short-term courses mainly for pastors and lay persons in Eastern Europe. Former students serve in 65 countries throughout the world. Through the years it had also become a popular conference site for Baptists in Europe.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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DNATTAF UVA ZA WKUW KQPJAV PIY: HIV ZA
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YAAR PIY: HIV ZA TKUNN NUQJK.

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This week's clue: F equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Twelve: Two.

Church growth helps available...

Warren talks innovative ministry in SBCNet on-line conference

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — Rick Warren visited with about three dozen fellow SBCNet subscribers on Dec. 14, answering questions about church growth in general and Saddleback Valley Community Church (SVCC) of Laguna Hills, Calif., in particular.

The on-line conference took place in SBCNet's "Innovative Ministry Room," and was moderated by Gene Wilkes, pastor of Legacy Drive Church, Plano, Texas, and a volunteer section leader for the data communications network's Innovative Ministry Library.

Saddleback, with an average Sunday attendance of almost 9,000, recently raised \$23.5 million in cash and commitments to build its first permanent buildings since the church began in Warren's home in 1980. The church has been cited as one of the 20 largest churches in America and was recently cited as the fastest-growing church in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to research by Elmer Towns of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Fielding a range of questions, Warren offered advice, including the following comments:

On evangelism training — "We encourage every member to develop relationships with neighbors. Build bridges. Over 90% of SVCC (members) came this way. I teach a simple plan of salvation outline to everyone on Sunday morning once a year. The last time I did this, we had 367 people saved in the service while I was training the rest! Develop an ongoing system of classes that offer training every month. We also have a ministry called 'Encouragers' for one-on-one evangelism."

On keys to growth — "First, you need to make sure that your worship service is top-notch. Before working on anything else, sharpen up your service. Second, you need to focus on recruiting volunteer staff — all you can get — for specific assignments. You will never be able to afford all the staff you need, no matter how big you get. We have always added staff in faith, before the money was there. Third, it is important to develop your image in the community as a happening place, welcoming and friendly. But most important of all, work on developing and improving your sermon skills."

On building a first-unit church facility — "Wait, wait, wait. Most people build too soon, and as a result they build too small. The shoe ends up telling the foot how big it can grow. Put off building. Focus on building people, not building buildings. Then, when the time is right, do your homework and focus on the meaning of commitment."

On starting a second worship service — "Only start a second worship service when you can have at least 75 to 100 people

attend. Otherwise, you defeat the purpose of creating an experience that visitors feel comfortable in."

On beginning new missions — "We try to start one new mission a year, at least. New churches are far more effective in reaching new people than older congregations. We have started 24 churches in our 14 years as a church."

On blending approaches to presenting the gospel — "It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. The key thing to remember is you want to make the unchurched feel comfortable socially, without watering down the message. The message is not always comfortable. Be sensitive in the way you say it, but don't water down what you say."

On musical style — "The moment you choose your musical style, you are choosing who you will reach and who you will never reach. It is the most important positioning factor in your church. And it will cause you the most pain. You must be willing to upset some for the greater good of reaching the lost.... If the church was there before you came, they have a big say in the music you choose. Rather than throwing out all the old, which I do not recommend, I suggest you simply start an additional service with new music."

On learning about the community — "Go out and do a simple survey. Look at local ads. They (advertisers) have spent thousands of dollars researching the values, interests, and needs. Use their research. Target your community four ways: geographically, demographically, psychographically (mind-set, values), and spiritually. Ask, 'What do these people already know about the gospel?'

An SBCNet romance

WOODBURY, Minn. (BP) — When David Van Bebber, pastor of Rosewood Church in Woodbury, Minn., subscribed to SBCNet last April, he did so for all the usual reasons. He wanted to read Baptist Press, send and receive electronic mail, access the various forums, and do all the normal SBCNet kinds of things. He never dreamed it would lead to the end of his bachelor days.

One of the forums he began to access was the youth forum. On Wednesday nights, he "talked" via SBCNet to youth and youth ministers, including one high school senior, Paul Guthrie, of Joshua, Texas.

When Guthrie found that Van Bebber was single, he noted that his sister, Patricia, was 29 (close enough to Van Bebber's age) and had expressed an interest in marrying someone in the ministry.

Van Bebber began correspondence with Patricia, which led to telephone calls, which led to more letters, which led to a week's visit to Texas, where he met Patricia and her parents. "We hit it off so well," says Van Bebber, "that she came to Minnesota in July and met my parents. I proposed to her on the shores of Lake Superior at Duluth, and she said 'yes.'"

"I knew," said Patricia, "that God had the right person for me. God knew my name, address, and phone number. He would bring the right man into my life. I just had to trust him."

And as for Paul, "I'm just glad God used me to bring the two of them together."

The wedding took place at First Church, Joshua, on Nov. 12, 1994.

Now it's Patricia's turn to "talk" with brother Paul using David's SBCNet subscription.

Look for solutions, advantages, and benefits your church can supply to your community."

Announcements of upcoming on-line conferences may be found under "special notices" on SBCNet.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem, and a membership kit distributed by the Sunday School Board. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh, and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling 1-800-325-7749. (See related article on page 6.)

Persons who are already members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCN" at the CompuServe prompt. Write to: SBCNet, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

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